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convinced that circumstances in which he has certainly never been before, are a repetition of others experienced in the past. In explanation of both phenomena he suggests that this conviction arises from an obscure emotional accompaniment of the perception. In peculiarly excitable states of the nervous system (as in vivid dreams, or when one is in strange places), parts of actual perceptions, as is normally the case, pass out of the focus of consciousness, and returning an instant later, meet changed conditions into which they do not fit, and therefore appear to be recollections. This rapid passing out of and into the focus of consciousness (or the physical concomitant of it) is not perceived, if we conceive the author rightly, but gives rise to the emotional accompaniment just mentioned.

Association by Contrast. M. PAULHAN. *Revue Scientifique*, Sept. 1.

The general law, applicable as well to higher states of consciousness as to sensations, is formulated, claiming that every psychic state tends to be accompanied (simultaneous contrast) or followed (successive contrast) by an opposite state. In sensation, the phenomena of complementary colors, of warmth following a sensation of cold, are typical. In motion, every contraction of a muscle involves the contraction of the antagonistic muscle. When moving and suddenly stopped, we seem to be going in the opposite direction. In the sphere of judgment, alternatives are ever present, an argument *pro* calls up another *con*. A vacillating temperament is characteristic of some types, while in the hypnotic subject it is strikingly absent. Morbid instances arise in which every idea realises its opposite, with alarming results. Again, depression follows joviality, and even the alleged phenomena of "psychic polarisation" would come under this law. Examples from all phases of psychic activity are brought together to show the wide bearings of the law of contrast. J. J.

The Geographical Distribution of British Intellect. Dr. A. CONAN DOYLE. *Nineteenth Century*, August, 1888.

Following the line of investigation inaugurated by Mr. Galton, Dr. Doyle examines the relative fertility of distinctive portions of the British Kingdom with reference to the production of celebrities. The degree of eminence recognized by Dr. Doyle is lower than that usually treated in such researches, and includes such as would deserve mention in a standard geographical dictionary like "*Men of the Time*" and yet rank higher than local celebrities. He selects about 1150 such men eminent in literature, art, music, medicine, sculpture, engineering, law, etc. These are found to contain 824 English born, 157 Scottish and 121 Irish, while 49 were born abroad. England would thus have one celebrity to 31,000 of population, Scotland one to 22,000, and Ireland one to 49,000. Wales, if counted separately, would have one to 58,000. London produces much more than its share of eminence, claiming 235 of the 824 Englishmen, or one to every 16,000 of the population. Dublin shows still better with 45 celebrities, one to 8500, and Edinburgh leads easily with 46, or one in 5500. While the chief cities are thus the intellectual centres, Dr. Doyle thinks the very greatest intellects come from the country. London is especially strong in artists and men of science. The standing of the various counties is detailed, making the eastern and southern counties superior to the northern and midland, "while

that portion of Scotland which lies between the Forth and Clyde on the north, and the English Border, is in the proud position of having reared a larger number of famous men in the later Victorian era than any other stretch of country of equal size." Other conclusions are "that agricultural districts are usually richer in great men than manufacturing or mining parts." And that, "if a line be drawn through the centre of Lincolnshire, it will be found that the poetry of the nation is to the southern side of that division"; it being regarded that, with a few notable exceptions, music, poetry, and art reach their highest development in the south, while theology, science, and engineering predominate in higher latitudes. J. J.

Facts and Opinions relating to the Deaf, from America. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL. London. 8vo, pp. 196.

This report to the Royal Commission of the British Government to inquire into the condition of the deaf, is of great value to students of this interesting class of defectives. Five questions are treated, mainly by the statistical method and the collation of the opinions of experts. 1. Visible speech. The fact that of 31 institutions in which it has been introduced it has been continued in only 17, argues against its universal applicability. 2. The development of latent powers of hearing in the partially deaf is ably discussed, with the result that the future holds out bright prospects in this direction. 3. The most important topic is that of the heredity of the deaf-mute as a class. Here the experience of superintendents of asylums goes to reducing the evil effects of intermarriage, some holding that the additional happiness thus brought about is more than a compensation for the slightly increased chances of a deaf offspring; others holding that consanguinity is a more potent factor than deaf-mutism, while still others make a difference between the congenitally deaf and those who become so later in life. The scientists, on the other hand, are unanimous in their agreement with Prof. Bell's position that the marriage of the deaf-mute with the deaf-mute is an ever increasing factor in the production of deaf-mutism, and that, if continued, it must end in establishing a deaf-mute variety of the human species. 4 and 5. Under these heads various usages and modes of instruction of different schools are summarized. J. J.

A Method of Examining Children in Schools as to their Development and Brain Condition. FRANCIS WARNER. Brit. Med. Jour., Sept. 22, 1888.

In the rapid observation of children in these particulars, very much can be learned by attention to two classes of facts: "(a) the form, proportions, and texture of the visible parts of the body; and (b) the signs of action of the central nerve-system, as seen in the muscles producing movements or attitudes or balances of nerve-muscular action." The first shows the development and nutrition; and in the condition of the special features often lie indications of mental weakness. The second shows, in variations from the normal, nerve-muscle weakness, fatigue, and excitability. Besides such things as these and starvation, the doctor has found hare-lip, congenital cyanosis, rickets of the skull, brain disease with congenital syphilis, all grades of idiots, and, with the help of the teacher, *petit mal*. In the Day Industrial School, of Liverpool, 14 per cent of the